UNITED
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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/833
17 March 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 40

THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND PROGRESS IN FASHIONING A REGION OF PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 14 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement issued on 11 March 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on the electoral process in El Salvador.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 40.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the
Netherlands to the United Nations

97-07215 (E) 190397 200397

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 11 March 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on the electoral process in El Salvador

The European Union's attention has been drawn to the recent events surrounding the electoral process in El Salvador, which have given rise to concern.

The European Union reiterates the need for transparency in the general and local elections and hopes that the Supreme Court will be in a position to perform its role as an impartial arbitrator to the full.

The European Union hopes that the whole electoral campaign will take place in the same spirit of mutual respect. It recalls that it has provided El Salvador with financial and technical assistance in order to carry out the necessary electoral reforms, and encourages the political forces to work towards El Salvador's rapid reconstruction and its prosperity.

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/834
S/1997/228
17 March 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda items 33, 35 and 85
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Identical letters dated 17 March 1997 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Following my letters of 21, 25 and 27 February 1997 (A/51/805-S/1997/149, A/51/808-S/1997/157 and S/1997/165, respectively), I regret that I must bring the following to your immediate attention.

Less than 24 hours after the General Assembly's overwhelming adoption on 13 March 1997 of resolution 51/223, which called upon the Israeli authorities to refrain from all actions or measures, including settlement activities, which altered the facts on the ground, the Government of Israel reaffirmed its decision to proceed with the construction of a new settlement in Jabal Abu Ghneim, south of East Jerusalem, and declared that work on the settlement would begin this week.

This Israeli decision serves as yet further proof of Israel's contempt for the will of the international community and its persistence in violating international law, United Nations resolutions and the agreements reached between the parties in the framework of the Middle East peace process. Some Israeli officials have made the situation even worse by making dangerous and rude statements, threatening the foundations of the peace process and even the mutual recognition between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

Obviously such an Israeli attitude is reinforced by the recurring impediment to the exercise of the appropriate mechanisms provided for in the Charter of the United Nations in similar situations. No other Member State has violated international law, relevant Security Council resolutions and other relevant United Nations resolutions as persistently as Israel has done.

The present serious situation, created by Israel's intransigence, as well as its flagrant challenges to the international community, necessitates action by the Security Council. We do hope that this time, under the current circumstances, the Council will be enabled to exercise its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations. We call upon the Security Council to do so and to demand specifically immediate and full cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, especially the settlement in Jabal Abu Ghneim.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as an official document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 33, 35 and 85, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nasser AL-KIDWA
Permanent Observer of Palestine
to the United Nations

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/835
S/1997/227
18 March 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda item 81
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 14 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement issued on 7 March 1997 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union regarding Zaire. The English and French texts are attached.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the
Netherlands to the United Nations

97-07316 (E) 180397 180397

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Annex

Statement issued on 7 March 1997 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union regarding Zaire

The European Union reiterates its support for the efforts of the United Nations/Organization of African Unity special envoy for the Great Lakes region to achieve a peaceful solution to the conflict in eastern Zaire.

In this connection the European Union welcomes the Zairian authorities' agreement to the five-point peace plan contained in United Nations Security Council resolution 1097 (1997). It regards this as an important step to be taken into account in advancing the process.

It calls upon all parties involved in the crisis in Zaire to endorse the peace plan put forward by the special representative of the United Nations and Organization of African Unity Secretaries-General and to give effect to its various provisions.

The European Union will continue its action vis-à-vis all its partners in the international community for the swift, full application of the United Nations and OAU peace plan.

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/836
S/1997/231
18 March 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda item 81
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 17 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement issued on 15 March 1997 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Zaire. The English text is attached.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the
Netherlands to the United Nations

97-07310 (E) 180397 180397

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 15 March 1997 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Zaire

It is with great concern that the European Union has learned about the rapidly deteriorating situation in Kisangani.

Once more this means that large groups of refugees have to move further without assistance of any kind being able to reach them. In addition this means further suffering for the Zairian population.

The European Union calls on all parties to the conflict in eastern Zaire to respect the lives of both refugees and Zairians.

The European Union, as the largest provider of humanitarian aid, urges all the parties involved to safeguard the humanitarian corridors that have just been opened by them in order to enable the delivery of the humanitarian assistance that is so urgently needed.

The European Union furthermore calls on all parties involved to look for ways and means to assist the large group of refugees, now concentrated near Ubundu, that cannot be reached under the present circumstances.